CA2ALPS 30
A56
1968
c. 2.

ALBERTA LEGISLATURE LIBRARY
3 3398 00459 7497

Alberta Racing Commission.

Annual Report, 1968.

LIBRARY
VAULT 19

OCT 1 1975
c. 2

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2020 with funding from
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE ALBERTA RACING COMMISSION

JANUARY 1, 1968 - DECEMBER 31, 1968

To: Honourable Ambrose Holowach,
Provincial Secretary,
Province of Alberta.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
of
THE ALBERTA RACING COMMISSION
JANUARY 1st, 1968 - DECEMBER 31, 1968

This is the Sixth Annual Report of the Alberta Racing Commission. It provides a review of Thoroughbred and Harness racing and the activities of the Commission for the calendar year 1968.

THOROUGHBRED RACING

1. MEETINGS

There were eleven race meetings and one hundred and six days of racing with pari-mutuel wagering in 1968, compared to twelve meetings and one hundred and five days of racing in 1967 as follows (1967 figures in brackets):-

	Meetings	Days of Racing
Calgary	3 (3)	46 (45)
Edmonton	3 (3)	47 (44)
Lethbridge	1 (1)	8 (9)
High River	1 (1)	1 (1)
Lake McGregor	1 (1)	2 (2)
Millarville	1 (1)	1 (1)
Stettler	- (1)	- (2)
Taber	1 (1)	1 (1)

Complete statistical information is attached hereto in Schedule (a) which forms a part of this Report.

2. LICENSES

The Commission continued its established practice and

licensed all Associations conducting race meetings and all personnel directly connected with the running of races during the year covered by this Report. Licenses issued and license fees collected in 1968 were as follows:

Race Meetings:	
Calgary Exhibition & Stampede Ltd., Calgary	$ 16,560.00
Edmonton Exhibition Association Ltd., Edmonton	19,505.00
Southern Alberta Racing Association Ltd., Lethbridge	2,145.00
High River Agricultural Society, High River	50.00
Lake McGregor Memorial Park Association, Lake McGregor	100.00
Millarville Racing & Sports Association, Millarville	50.00
Taber Rodeo Association, Taber	50.00
	$ 38,460.00
Personnel:	
513 Owners	5,130.00
58 Trainers	580.00
114 Owner-Trainers	2,290.00
85 Stable Names	850.00
50 Jockeys & Apprentice Jockeys	250.00
20 Jockeys' Agents	102.50
69 Authorized Agents	69.00
98 Exercise & Pony Boys	99.00
363 Grooms & Stable Employees	366.50
11 Veterinarians	55.00
2 Veterinary Students	2.00
11 Platers (Blacksmiths)	11.00
	$ 9,805.00

3. RACE OFFICIALS

The Commission continues to be of the opinion that one of the fundamental requirements of racing in the public good is to have race officials of proven ability and integrity responsible for the supervision and conduct of race meetings and race personnel. It is with considerable satisfaction, therefore, that the Commission is able to report that for the fifth year in succession Mr. Clay Puett represented the Commission as Steward at the major race meetings which came under the jurisdiction of the Commission at Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge during the year under review. He had associated with him

at all times two Stewards who represented the Associations licensed to conduct the meetings. This is a Commission requirement. Together the three Stewards acted as a panel or board in their supervision of the conduct of the race meetings. Of equal importance and gratification was the availability of Dr. J. Gordon Anderson, D.V.M., Calgary to once again represent the Commission as Veterinarian at all thoroughbred racing at the three cities named. The Commission is fortunate to have the benefit of the long experience and proven ability which both Mr. Puett and Dr. Anderson bring to the sport of horse racing in Alberta. Their combined knowledge of all phases of racing, including knowledge of many of the horses, horsemen and other racing personnel, together with their numerous actions, recommendations and suggestions are invaluable to the Commission in its efforts to improve racing in this Province. In addition, the Commission was represented by Mr. R. Haig at all tracks while thoroughbred racing was in progress. Mr. Haig was responsible for the licensing of race personnel and the numerous clerical and statistical needs of the Commission. His duties continued to be performed in an efficient and co-operative manner.

4. STEWARDS' RULINGS

The Stewards promulgated sixty-six Rulings against licensed personnel for infractions or violations of the Rules of the Commission governing Thoroughbred racing as follows:

Improper behaviour	18
Careless or faulty riding	29
Improper medication	1
Positive test	1
Ineligible claims	3
Ineligible entries	11
Ineligible scratches	3

The number of Stewards' Rulings in 1968 was much the same as in 1967. All were reviewed by the Commission. The majority were

for infractions or violations of relatively minor Rules of the Commission and the penalties imposed were in keeping with same and established turf procedures. It is gratifying to the Commission to be able to report that while approximately fifteen hundred official samples of urine were submitted to the Chemists for testing, only one sample proved to be positive. The Commission considered the case and having heard the evidence adduced and having heard the Owner-Trainer involved, found that the official sample secured from the horse in question contained amphetamine and/or a derivative thereof, which drug or substance can affect the performance of a horse in a race. The Commission further found that the Owner-Trainer involved was in possession of drugs and a hypodermic syringe and needles on the grounds of a race track. The finding of both the drug and/or substance in the official sample and the possession of drugs and a hypodermic syringe and needles on the grounds of a race track are in direct contravention of the Rules of the Commission and Rules upon which the Commission continues to place a great degree of emphasis. As a result, the Commission revoked the license of the Owner-Trainer concerned and refused him admission to the grounds of any association in Alberta from the date of the violation of the Rules of the Commission on July 11th., 1968, until September 30th., 1969.

Once again, the review of Stewards' Rulings provided in the foregoing paragraph indicates to the Commission that Thoroughbred racing in Alberta in 1968 was singularly free from serious malpractices which can be observed by the officials, or detected by official procedures, such as the analysis of official samples. It is also an indication to the Commission of the awareness on the part of all concerned, including horse owners, trainers, jockeys and other race personnel, of the im-

portance of maintaining and improving the standards of thoroughbred racing in the interests of all concerned, including the general public. However, the Commission would like to stress that the relatively satisfactory results now being achieved are not grounds or reasons for complacency or a relaxation of the requirements of the Commission. The Commission wishes to emphasize once again that it intends to maintain its vigilance, to press with vigour its efforts to control and eliminate all practices which are detrimental to racing and contrary to the public interest and to deal severely with those who violate the Rules of the Commission dealing with same.

5. GENERAL

The statistical information forming part of this Report as Schedule "A" reflects a continued growth and public acceptance of Thoroughbred racing in Alberta. Pari-mutuel wagering at $28,429,099.00 in 1968 continued the growth it has been showing during the past few years and reflects an increase of $3,766,911.00 over the total of $24,662,188.00 wagered in 1967. The increase is attributable to several factors, amongst them being the continued growth and buoyancy of the Alberta economy and the constant improvement in the manner in which horse racing is being presented to the citizens of Alberta by the racing Associations concerned. There is evidence from year to year of a steady improvement being made to the facilities, equipment and services provided at all major race tracks in the province. This reflects an understanding and appreciation on the part of those concerned with the conduct of racing of the necessity of recognizing and catering to public tastes and demands if the position of racing and those responsible for it are to be maintained and improved. This is particularly true at Edmonton and Calgary where the Exhibition Associations con-

cerned are constantly improving their presentation of racing as conditions and finances warrant and permit. A great deal of credit is due the Southern Alberta Racing Association Ltd. for the tremendous effort put forth to fulfill commitments and complete the 1968 meeting at Lethbridge in the face of some of the most unfavorable weather conditions to prevail during the conduct of a race meeting. Another factor contributing to the popularity and success of thoroughbred racing in Alberta is that all officials involved continue to be conscious of their responsibilities to the horsemen and general public alike and to give the utmost of their time and talents to improve the image of the sport in the public good.

HARNESS RACING

6. MEETINGS

There was one meeting and forty-two days of Harness racing conducted at Edmonton during the year under review - the same as the previous year.

7. LICENSES

The Rules of the Commission governing Harness racing require that all those who conduct race meetings, or who are directly associated with the running of races, shall be licensed by the Commission. Licenses issued and license fees collected in 1968 were as follows:

Race Meeting:	
Edmonton Exhibition Association Ltd	$ 8,400.00
Personnel:	
Owners, Trainers, Drivers, Exercise Boys, Grooms, Hot Walkers, Veterinarians, Veterinarian Assistants and Platers - 362 licenses	$ 523.00

8. RACE OFFICIALS

The same officials as were employed in 1967 were re-appointed and represented the Commission at the 1968 harness race meeting. They were Dr. Roy Saito, D. V. M., Leduc, who acted as Commission Veterinarian, Mr. Don. Stewart, Jnr., Edmonton, Commission Judge and Mr. Ralph Haig, Commission Licensing Officer and Clerk. The Commission wishes to repeat in this Report what has been stated before and that is that the Commission places considerable emphasis on the importance of qualified, efficient personnel to represent the Commission and to supervise the conduct of harness racing in Alberta. The relatively new sport in this Province is gaining in popularity and public acceptance and the Commission is determined that it will be conducted in a satisfactory manner, in the public good. The Commission is also convinced of the need and desirability of developing and employing Alberta citizens wherever possible in racing in this province. The services rendered by the officials named were highly satisfactory and in the best interests of harness racing in the Province.

9. JUDGES' RULINGS

The Judges issued nineteen Rulings involving Licensees for infractions of the combined Rules of the Commission and the Canadian Trotting Association, under which harness racing is conducted in Alberta. This compared to a total of 24 Rulings issued in 1967. The 1968 Rulings included 11 penalties imposed for poor driving and/or impeding or interfering with the progress of other horses or drivers in races; one for driving in a careless or reckless manner; three for improper medication; two for failure to report or maintain medication records; one for improper personal conduct and one for a positive test. All Judges' Rulings were reviewed by the Commission. Of the 721 official

samples of urine which were secured from the 415 races run in 1968 and submitted to and tested by the Chemists, only one test proved to be positive. In this case, the official sample secured from the horse contained procaine and/or an analogue thereof, which drug or substance can affect the performance of a horse in a race. The finding of such a drug or substance is in direct violation of the Rules governing Harness racing and Rules upon which the Commission places a great deal of emphasis, in the public good. As a result, the Judges suspended the Owner-Trainer-Driver involved from all racing for a period of sixty days from the date the offence occurred. All other Judges' Rulings were for relatively minor infractions of the Rules and all penalties imposed were in keeping with the rule violations involved and established racing procedures.

10. GENERAL

There was a change in the sponsorship of harness racing in Alberta during the year under review. The interests of Western Harness Raceways Ltd., which company had conducted harness racing in the province during the preceding few years, were acquired by the Edmonton Exhibition Association Ltd. The Association sought and secured Commission and Government of Canada approval to conduct the Edmonton meeting during the months of September and October. As in the past, the Commission was concerned about the number and quality of horses required and which might be available for an extended meeting of the class approved. Therefore, prior to granting permission for the meeting, the Commission held discussions with the Edmonton Exhibition Association, the Alberta Standardbred Horse Association and the Canadian Trotting Association and secured assurances that the requirements of the Commission would be met. It is gratifying to be able to report that the meeting attracted

above the minimum number of horses stipulated by the Commission. They had their origin not only in Alberta, where the number of standardbred horses is increasing steadily, but from elsewhere in Canada and the United States, as well, and the quality of same was quite satisfactory for the intended purpose.

A great deal of credit for the improvement in harness racing in Alberta in 1968 is due the Edmonton Exhibition Association Ltd.and the officials they employed in the supervision and conduct of the meeting. Equal credit is due the Canadian Trotting Association and the Alberta Standardbred Horse Association, the former for its interest in the conduct and supervision of all harness racing in Canada and the latter for the efforts the Association constantly puts forth to establish the standardbred horse industry in Alberta on a sound basis for the breeder and owner and as a source of supply of suitable horses required to provide harness racing on a scale and of a calibre second to none on the continent.

The statistical information which forms part of this Report as Schedule "B" indicates that the efforts of those concerned with the conduct of harness racing in this province are meeting with public approval and increased public support for the relatively new sport. Pari-mutuel wagering at $5,694,236.00 in 1968 showed an increase of $1,317,161.00 over the total of $4,377,075.00 wagered the previous year.

The Commission will continue its efforts to maintain and improve the quality of harness racing in this Province. In so doing, the Commission recognizes that it has the full support and co-operation of all others involved in the development of a sport which is increasing in public favor and participation as the years go by.

GENERAL

11. REVENUE & EXPENDITURE

The records of the Commission have been audited and reviewed by the Provincial Auditor and the following is the audited statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Commission for the twelve months ended December 31st., 1968, together with comparative figures for the year ended December 31st., 1967:

	1968	1967
REVENUE:		
Thoroughbred racing:		
Race Meeting Assessments	38,460.00	35,750.00
Personnel Licenses	9,805.00	8,901.50
Fines	1,595.00	1,450.00
	$ 49,860.00	46,101.50
Harness Racing:		
Race Meeting Assessments	8,400.00	8,820.00
Personnel Licenses	523.00	481.00
	$ 8,923.00	9,301.00
Miscellaneous	463.69	233.14
	$ 59,246.69	55,635.64
EXPENDITURE:		
Stewards' Fees & Expenses	14,409.29	13,658.95
Veterinarians' Fees	14,185.00	12,075.00
Commissioners' Salaries	10,500.00	10,500.00
Office Salaries	6,032.00	5,044.00
Travelling	3,579.92	2,753.10
Judge's Fees	2,500.00	2,500.00
Tattooing	2,124.48	1,153.99
Printing, Stationery & Office Supplies	1,747.82	2,863.31
Office Rent	980.00	930.00
Telegraph, Telephone & Postage	779.21	707.91
Membership Fees	758.25	761.75
Insurance	653.06	625.60
Canada Pension Plan Contributions	457.09	375.46
Legal Fees	450.00	153.30
Hearings & Appeals	202.65	252.90
Miscellaneous	77.80	74.27
	$ 59,436.57	54,429.54
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	$ (189.88)	1,206.10

	1968	1967
Surplus as at January 1st.	$ 11,206.10	12,053.70
Add: Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	(189.88)	1,206.10
	11,016.22	13,259.80
Deduct: Remitted to Provincial Treasurer	1,206.10	2,053.70
Surplus as at December 31st.	$ 9,810.12	11,206.10
Represented by:		
Cash in Bank	4,810.12	6,206.10
Short Term Investments	5,000.00	5,000.00
	$ 9,810.12	11,206.10

Under authority granted by O.C.1012-66, the Commission is permitted to retain an accumulated surplus of $10,000.00 at all times as an appropriate reserve fund against unforeseen or unpredictable contingencies or emergencies. Any excess over this figure is remitted to the Provincial Treasurer. It will be noted that for the year ended December 31, 1968, the Expenditure of the Commission exceeded Revenue in an amount of $189.88 and the permitted reserve fund was reduced accordingly. The budget policy of the Commission for the year 1969 will be one of attempting to estimate Revenue in an amount which will be sufficient to provide for the year's estimated Expenditure and to restore the Reserve fund to its allowable total of $10,000.00. As in past years, it will be noted from the statement of Revenue and Expenditure that by far the largest portion of the Revenue of the Commission in 1968 was derived from Associations and others who conducted race meetings, with a lesser sum earned from personnel license fees and fines levied against Licensees for infractions or violations of the Rules of the Commission governing racing. Also, the method of calculating race meeting assessments paid by those conducting race meetings remained the same. The assessment or fee for a race meeting was in an amount sufficient to reimburse the Commission for the cost of providing officials for the meeting, plus a pro-rata portion of the balance of

the cost of maintaining the office and services of the Commission (after Revenue earned from Personnel License fees, Fines and Miscellaneous Revenue has been deducted) in relation to the pari-mutuel wagering handled by the Association conducting the race meeting during the previous year's meeting. The Commission feels that this formula continues to be fair to all concerned. It also feels that the amount of race meeting fees or assessments and license fees being paid by race associations and personnel is fair and reasonable and that as far as can be determined at this time, there should not be any change in the immediate future.

12. RACE TRACK SECURITY

The Commission continues to feel that the matter of security policies and practices at race tracks is one of its prime responsibilities in the public interest. The provision and maintenance of qualified personnel, available for security, investigation and surveillance requirements, both on and off race tracks and on a continuous basis, is in the view of the Commission one of the greatest needs in horse racing. The Commission has stated in the past that it appears that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is best qualified to meet these requirements and the Commission continues to impress the needs in this important area of racing upon those responsible for the provision of law enforcement agencies in this Province.

13. COMMUNITY RACE MEETINGS

The Commission licensed community organizations at High River, Lake McGregor, Millarville and Taber to conduct race meetings with pari-mutuel wagering during the year under review. The Commission was represented at all meetings by Mr. H. E. Patten, Calgary. Mr. Patten was

available to see that the Rules and other requirements of the Commission were upheld and to give advice and assistance to those responsible for the conduct of the meetings. In his reports, Mr. Patten indicated that his presence at the meetings was appreciated and that the requirements of the Commission were understood and provided for. As the Commission has reported heretofore, indications are that the demand for race meetings with pari-mutuel wagering to be conducted at the smaller centres throughout the province will increase as the years go by. Meetings of this nature prove to be most popular community activities and command considerable public approval and support.

14. RACE ASSOCIATIONS AND RACE MEETINGS

Members of the Commission continued their visits to all race meetings to observe the conduct of racing. Their attendance at the meetings included inspections of the facilities, equipment, personnel and services being provided and used by race track owners and operators. As a result of these inspections and recommendations made by its officials, the Commission continues to make recommendations, suggestions and requests for changes, additions and improvements which are considered to be either desirable or essential in the public good. It is pleased, once again, to be able to report that in every instance, the representations it has made have met with favourable response and requests made have either been fulfilled, or are in the process of fulfillment. Members of the Commission are also available throughout the year for consultation with race Association Officials and all others, whether directly connected with, or otherwise interested in some phase of racing in Alberta. The place of the Commission is now firmly established and the responsibilities it has to fulfill under the Alberta Racing Commission Act and in the public good are now better understood

and appreciated.

15. GENERAL

The Commission maintained its membership in the National Association of State Racing Commissioners and was represented at the Annual Meeting of the Association, held at Miami, Fla., during the early part of the year. The Commission was also invited and was represented at the annual meeting of the National Association of Canadian Racetracks, Inc., held at Toronto, also early in the year. This latter Association has as its membership most of the race track owners and operators in Canada and has as its object and purpose the furthering of the best interests of all those directly connected with the conduct of race tracks and horse racing in this country. At both meetings, matters of importance and interest to racing Commission were reviewed and discussed and the Commission feels that its attendance was worthwhile and of value to the functions and duties of the Commission in Alberta.

16. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Commission wishes to acknowledge the co-operation and assistance it received throughout the year from the following:

Mr. Lou Davies, General Manager and staff Western Canada Racing Association Ltd.
Mr. A. J. Anderson, General Manager, Mr. A. A. Grillo, General Manager, Harness Racing Division and staff Edmonton Exhibition Association Ltd.,
Mr. I. W. Parsons, General Manager and staff Calgary Exhibition & Stampede Ltd.,
Mr. Lee S. Williams, President and Mr. N. L. Chapman, General Manager, Southern Alberta Racing Association Limited
Lord Roderick Gordon, President, Alberta Thoroughbred Association
Mr. Ken Amthor, President, Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association
Mr. Emil Roy, Secretary-Manager, Jockeys' Benefit Association of Canada
Mr. H. A. Dickenson, President, Mr. Gordon M. Findlay, Secretary, and Mr. J. C. LeLacheur, Chairman, District #12, Canadian Trotting Association

Mr. C. J. D. Fraser, Director, Alberta Standardbred Horse Association

Mr. S. B. Pratt, Chief, Race Track Supervision, Canada Department of Agriculture.

Respectfully submitted.

Date at the City of Edmonton,

Province of Alberta.

this 3rd. day of February, 1969.

.....
Chairman

.....
Vice-Chairman

.....
Commissioner-Secretary

PARI-MUTUEL STATISTICS

SCHEDULE "A"

THOROUGHBRED RACING - 1968 & 1967

	Racing Days		No. of Races		Attendance		Nett Gate Receipts	
	1968	1967	1968	1967	*1968	1967	*1968	1967
CALGARY	46	45	368	362	174,369	278,478	133,335.50	875,518.75
EDMONTON	47	44	370	352	241,625	259,020	216,088.50	204,989.00
LETHBRIDGE	8	9	59	68	9,344	11,050	5,510.00	7,730.00
HIGH RIVER	1	1	8	8	788	850	788.00	520.00
LAKE MCGREGOR	2	2	16	16	2,599	1,814	3,898.50	1,965.00
MILLARVILLE	1	1	8	8	9,628	3,920	4,814.00	3,466.00
STETTLER	-	2	-	16	---	738	--- --	616.00
TABER	1	1	8	8	850	750	553.00	456.00
	106	105	843	838	439,203	557,220	$364,993.50	$1,095,266.75

	Amount Wagered		Pari - Mutuel Percentages & Breaks	
	1968	1967	1968	1967
CALGARY	11,449,835.00	10,336,920.00	1,102,291.45	991,771.72
EDMONTON	16,481,182.00	13,689,366.00	1,578,233.94	1,312,466.36
LETHBRIDGE	422,787.00	568,434.00	40,733.23	55,411.16
HIGH RIVER	12,946.00	6,006.00	1,303.37	610.57
LAKE MCGREGOR	16,594.00	9,922.00	1,637.93	979.49
MILLARVILLE	35,139.00	33,758.00	3,444.14	3,374.41
STETTLER	--- --	9,308.00	--- --	949.26
TABER	10,616.00	8,414.00	1,071.02	829.13
	$28,429,099.00	$24,662,188.00	$2,728,715.08	$2,366,392.10

	Alberta Government Tax		Gross Prize Money	
	1968	1967	1968	1967
CALGARY	572,491.75	516,846.00	578,005.00	522,100.00
EDMONTON	824,059.10	684,468.30	644,800.00	580,630.00
LETHBRIDGE	21,139.35	28,421.70	25,750.00	29,800.00
HIGH RIVER	647.30	300.30	1,405.00	1,095.00
LAKE MCGREGOR	829.70	496.10	1,545.00	1,330.00
MILLARVILLE	1,756.95	1,687.90	2,062.00	1,802.00
STETTLER	--- --	468.40	--- --	1,150.00
TABER	530.80	420.70	1,170.00	750.00
	$1,421,454.95	$1,233,109.40	$1,254,737.00	$1,138,657.00

* Revised calculations

Source - Chief, Race Track Supervision, Canada Department of Agriculture

PARI-MUTUEL STATISTICS

SCHEDULE "B"

HARNESS RACING - 1968 & 1967

	Racing Days 1968	Racing Days 1967	No. of Races 1968	No. of Races 1967	Attendance 1968	Attendance 1967	Nett Gate Receipts 1968	Nett Gate Receipts 1967
EDMONTON	42	42	415	416	114,853	99,225	77,542.00	65,530.00
	42	42	415	416	114,853	99,225	$77,542.00	$65,530.00

	Amount Wagered 1968	Amount Wagered 1967	Pari - Mutuel Percentages & Breaks 1968	Pari - Mutuel Percentages & Breaks 1967
EDMONTON	5,694,236.00	4,377,075.00	545,804.87	422,012.48
	$5,694,236.00	$4,377,075.00	$545,804.87	$422,012.48

	Alberta Government Tax 1968	Alberta Government Tax 1967	Gross Prize Money 1968	Gross Prize Money 1967
EDMONTON	284,711.80	218,853.75	230,804.00	179,959.00
	$284,711.80	$218,853.75	$230,804.00	$179,959.00

Source - Chief, Race Track Supervision, Canada Department of Agriculture